

Recommendations and Problems

Monthly Reports for June 1958

CARTOGRAPHY DIVISION

The overload of work in the reproduction plants appears to be easing somewhat, at least insofar as it affects the work of this Division. During the month both plants made sincere efforts to meet our requests, and on the whole, the few delays which did occur did not materially affect our production or scheduling. However, delays were encountered in securing intermediate reproduction work which will have a future effect on our ability to meet commitments on NIS bases and Chapter I maps.

The agreement reached with D/IL on the distribution and control of D/GC produced maps has been working very well. After a full month of operation, the results have been extremely good in that a more efficient, realistic approach has saved an appreciable amount of time and effort in D/GC.

SPECIAL SUPPORT BRANCH

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The number of new jobs we took in this month is rather low compared to a few months ago. This is fortunate in view of the fact that [REDACTED] is spending as much time as he possibly can on a special project for F.I.

GEOGRAPHY DIVISION

25X1A9a

The Far East Branch reports again on its concern about the breakdown of FDD's support: Personal visits to FDD in Y Building are still being made in an effort to obtain a more equitable servicing of CG/F requirements on Communist China. In this connection, an evaluation of FDD's service over the past year was given to [REDACTED]. Despite the developments indicated in the foregoing, the inadequacy of Chinese Communist geographic publication exploitation remains the most critical problem in China research in CG/F. As noted last month, the expediency of FDD's coverage of recent Chinese Communist geographic publications has markedly declined over the past year and reached an all-time low when the one translator assigned to cover geographic serials was assigned to other duties. In fairness to FDD, it is recognized that they are aware of the problem and are trying to reorganize their personnel to afford better service. As of now, "geography" has been reassigned to another translator, but one who has the primary duty of following transportation developments in China.

The problem of servicing I/CG requirements by St/I is still under consideration and will be reported on next month.

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GEOGRAPHY DIVISION(Cont'd)

The photographic slides on Africa available at Graphics Register were carefully examined during June by a member of the Near East/Africa Branch, and the conclusion was reached that the collection is not adequate, particularly when one is faced with a short deadline. If ample time is available, slides allegedly can be procured, but the objective apparently is to add to the collection on a piecemeal basis as occasion arises rather than cover the area by procuring slide collections from individuals or institutions.

EDITING AND REVIEW STAFF

The problem of the format of GR-181, Civil Divisions of the World: Part I, Asia and the USSR, was discussed with Ch/G. When the reasons for the deviation from the standard format were explained, he agreed to the use of the same format in the four following reports in the same series. Since some uncertainty remains as to the use of controls and the omission of the Agency seal and the name of the issuing division from the cover, GG/R will prepare a list of these and related problems for submission to the CIA Publications Board for formal decision. This list will be prepared as soon as the current year-end rush of work is over. The resulting decisions will meet a long-felt need of the Editing and Review Staff.

Chief/G conferred with the Acting Division Chief, the editors, and the responsible analysts concerning focus and content of the urban study of Noril'sk. Ch/G recommended the issuance of shorter reports that would be geographic interpretations of the analyst's research and would omit all details of research not essential to support conclusions. This approach applies particularly to self-initiated projects in the G series.

STAFF - [REDACTED] 25X1A9a

Re the requirement problem: In processing and coordinating, questions are often combined and modified in such a way that it is difficult to say who "owns" (or has a major interest in) questions that finally go to the field. When answers come back, they usually go into channels as CIA reports and quite frequently offices that submitted questions are never told specifically that answers to their questions are to be found in report so-and-so. Interested offices may stumble on reports containing answers to "their" questions or they may miss them completely. We feel two principles must be followed ere the situation will improve:

1. Preserve "ownership" of questions through the coordinating process so that finally goes to the field can always be keyed back to the original questions and the names of interested offices or individuals.
2. When answers or negative reports come in, work back to the original questions and see that all interested individuals and offices receive reports. Reports could be noted saying that answers to Reqt.# _____ are to be found in reports _____, or checklist forms indicating why answers to certain questions could not be obtained.

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As these principles will be costly and complicated; however, until they are applied, we look for little fundamental improvement in the handling of requirements. ~~SECRET~~

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GEOGRAPHY DIVISION (cont'd)

SPECIAL RESEARCH STAFF. (W. Hemisphere)

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Discussion with [REDACTED] regarding the problem of safe check-sheets which indicate that the materials within have not been used over an extended period of time. It is extremely difficult to present an unprejudiced view of the Western Hemisphere research problem in a discussion about the intricacies of administrative "surveys". The fact that at least one justification for the Records Center is to relieve the research situation, when in truth utilization of the Records Center would be the millstone around my neck that would really break my back, presents a paradoxical situation that is hard to reconcile with management theories. Some day, the comparison between geographical information which is basic in character and the ephemeral economic, statistical data which can be frequently discarded must be made clear to the administrative "mind" that now lumps them together as comparable amounts of bulk documents. With certain exceptions, geographical information which I could retire to the Records Center probably might just as well be destroyed.

MAP LIBRARY DIVISION

PROCUREMENT BRANCH

The Domestic Procurement Section is now doing very little in the way of "geographic intelligence" requirements for D/GC for lack of time and manpower. D/GC has not requested any action on these requirements, and their response to work performed in their behalf in the past has been unenthusiastic.

REFERENCE BRANCH

The backlog of materials to be filed at Vital Storage, chiefly ATMP material which is tedious and time-consuming to file, remains large and continues to be a problem.

PHOTO INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

None reported.

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